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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Preparations are under way to liquidate all Czech foreign trade monopolies by the end of 1951. In place of the 29 existing monopolies the Government will establish a new import-export office in the Ministry of Foreign Trade to handle all foreign trade beginning in January 1952.

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\* [ ] Comment: Such warehouses include those in Decin-Podmokly for shipments through Dutch ports to Western overseas lines, Prague for trade via the Labe (Elbe) River, and Breclav for exports to Austria, Hungary, Italy and the USSR.

25X1 25X1A \*\* [ ] Comment: [ ] paragraphs 1-3 reports that the import plan calls for the purchase of \$1,700,000 worth rather than \$1,200,000.

25X1A \*\*\* [ ] Comment: The Liben plant of Zbrojovka Brno manufactures ball and roller bearings. However, indications are that no Czech plants are capable of manufacturing ball bearings of high precision, or of producing very small or very large bearings. It is believed that Czechoslovakia is still extremely anxious to import all the bearings it can and that the reduction in its import plan is primarily due to Western trade restrictions and a lack of foreign currency.

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